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#44

NOVEMBER 1991

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.info WrapUp

FUN TIMES IN DENVER

We did more in Denver than just attend DevCon sessions.

Most of us got out to Denver's prime tourist attractions at one time or another. Especially memorable were the dinosaur skeletons, huge-screen IMAX movies, and planetarium at the Colorado Museum of Natural History; buffalo (American bison) prime rib at the Buckhorn Exchange, Denver's oldest restaurant; and a tour of the U.S. Mint, where they *don't* give away free samples.

Friday was reserved for a group outing to Denver's Comedy Works. They happened to be filming an episode of the Arts & Entertainment network's 'Comedy on the Road' hosted by John Byner. 'Carrot Top' was the most famous (and best) of the evening's five comics. The crowd was jammed with blue DevCon T-shirts. If you want to see some of the Amiga's best and brightest hooting and acting like a bunch of nuts, look for this episode to air on A&E in February.

We all went on a "Taste of the Rockies" tour Saturday afternoon, in three busses. Our first target was the Coors Brewery in Golden, where (unlike the Mint) the samples flowed freely. Good thing, too, because we found that it gets very dry up in the mountains. The bus continued to the top of Lookout Mountain and Buffalo Bill's gravesite, then traveled on to Red Rock Amphitheater. So they tell me. I'm sure we all had a real good time.

But what I really love about DevCons are the late-night hotel lounge bull sessions about shows and chips and emailing VAX and Babbage's and strings. We hold heated, emotional discussions about what goes on inside teeny little bits of silicon, too small to see. It's wonderful.

NEW 3RD PARTY PRODUCTS

Several new products were announced at the Amiga DevCon in Denver. Here are some of the most interesting.

How to Publicize High Tech Products and Services is a book by Daniel Janal. It addresses a very important issue. Dan Janal gave a very interesting and right-on talk on this topic at DevCon, and I'd

heartily recommend the book for anyone thinking of launching an Amiga product. List price is \$50, but Mr. Janal has offered to extend the \$25.00 DevCon price to interested .info readers. Janal Communications, 1063 Morse Ave., Ste. 7-301, Sunnyvale CA, 94089, 408-734-2092, FAX 408-734-2192.

GVP hosted a hospitality suite Thursday night and showed three new products. The *Impact Vision 24* board incorporates a 24-bit framebuffer, genlock, framegrabber, flicker eliminator, picture-in-picture, titler, and 3D modelling system all in one package. It's designed for the A3000 video expansion slot, but is adaptable to the A2000. There are composite, S-VHS, and RGB outputs. One of its most interesting capabilities is picture-in-picture - it can display video in a window on an application screen or an application in a sizable, scalable window on the video screen. *Caligari IV-24*, *Scala*, *MacroPaint IV-24* are all included. Price: \$2199. They also showed a 25 MHz 68040 accelerator board and their *Serial/MIDI + Parallel* card. Great Valley Products, 600 Clark Ave., King of Prussia, PA 19406, 215-337-8770.

There's a new version of *ProVector* available. *ProVector 2.0's* features include the ability to show a 256 dithered-color display out of a palette of 16 million; it can drive output formats up to 15x15 miles (I'd like to see that printer...), and there's a new enhanced 020/030 version; it will import and export EPS files; features a 255-level undo; allows interruption of processes; can create transparent holes, and much more. Stylus, Inc., formerly Taliesin, PO Box 1671, Ft. Collins CO 80522, 303-484-7321.

Sequel is a new MIDI sequencer program for beginners to pros. It features an easy-to-use window interface, many special effects, a multitasking file requester (neat!), a scrollable, editable list of MIDI events, support for both MIDI and stereo Amiga voices, MIDI and IFF files, and SMPTE and MIDI sync. This program is lots of fun, easy to use, and produces very good sound with no missed MIDI notes. Diemer Development, PO Box 683, Pleasant Grove, UT 84062, 801-785-6563.

Dale Luck was showing an impressive and inexpensive new Amiga display board.

The *Graphic Display Adapter 2* features VGA, E-VGA, and S-VGA modes, with displays of 16 to 256 colors in resolutions from 640x480 to 1024x768, depending on memory, which can consist of 512K, 1 meg, or 2 megs of fast video RAM. There is XWindows support, of course, and the board is compatible with the A2000 and A3000. The most impressive feature of this board is its price: under \$500 for the 512K version, under \$700 for 1 meg, and under \$1000 for 2 megs. GfxBase, 1881 Elwell Dr, Milpitas, CA 95035, 408-262-1469.

The very latest Fred Fish disks are always available on CD-ROM from HyperMedia Concepts. The latest disk I got at DevCon includes the Fish up though 530. The disks include a special version of *ExpressCopy* to create standard floppy Fish disks in less than two minutes. There are now two separate disks for regular use and an .LZH version for BBS sysops, the *Fred Fish Collection Online*. Both are available on a one-time basis or by subscription (updated three times a year.) HyperMedia Concepts, 5200 Washington Ave, Ste. 226, Racine, WI 53406, 414-632-3766.

Rembrandt is Progressive Peripheral's new 32-bit graphics card. It features an 8-bit overlay over a 24-bit display. List price is \$3995. Features include dual framebuffers and up to 1024x1024 screens. Paint software is currently under development. The technology is based on a 40 MHz Texas Instruments graphics processor, which makes the board TIGA graphics compatible. There are RGB and composite inputs, and the unit acts as a real-time framegrabber. *Rembrandt* includes 8MB of fast video RAM and one meg of applications RAM (expandable to 8 MB). Also new from PP&S are the *Progressive 040* accelerator cards for the A2000 (28 MHz, \$2260 w/o Megs, \$2430 w/4 Megs) and A3000 (25 MHz, \$1795). Both include a built-in fan for cool, reliable operation. Progressive Peripherals and Software, 464 Kalamath St., Denver, CO 80204, 303-825-4144.

1991 DEVELOPERS' CHOICE AWARDS

The program for DevCon's closing luncheon included the presentation

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of the 1991 Developers' Choice Awards. These awards are chosen by the developers themselves. Here are this year's winners:

U.S.

Best Education: *Distant Suns*, Virtual Reality Labs
Best Entertainment: *Lemmings*, Psygnosis
Best Consumer Productivity: *AmigaVision*, Commodore
Best Pro Productivity: *C Development System*, SAS
Best User Interface: *Workbench 2.0*, Commodore
Best Hardware: *Video Toaster*, NewTek
Amiga Hall of Fame: Fish Disks, Fred Fish

Europe

Best Education: *Planetarium*, Virtual Reality Labs
Best Entertainment: *Lemmings*, Psygnosis
Best Consumer Productivity: *A-Max II*, ReadySoft
Best Pro Productivity: *Amiga TeX*, Radical Eye
Best User Interface: *Workbench 2.0*, Commodore
Best Hardware: *Amiga 3000T*, Commodore
Amiga Hall of Fame: Matt Dillon

TOP ENTERTAINMENT SELLERS

In case you were wondering (or even if you weren't) what games are at the top of the chart, the Software Publishers Association lists them by MS/DOS and cartridge, and some from both categories have been converted, or are being converted, to Amiga.

MS/DOS:

1. *King's Quest V* - Sierra
2. *Jetfighter II* - Velocity
3. *AD&D Eye of the Beholder* - SSI
4. *Space Quest IV* - Sierra
5. *Wing Commander* - Origin
6. *A-10 Tank Killer* - Dynamix/Sierra
7. *SimCity* - Maxis
8. *SimEarth* - Maxis
9. *Links: Firestone CC* - Access
10. *Flight Simulator Aircraft & Scenery* - Microsoft

CARTRIDGES:

1. *Super Mario Land* - Nintendo
2. *WWF Superstars* - LJN Toys
3. *Lakers vs. Celtics* - Electronic Arts
4. *Teenage Turtles (arcade)* - Konami
5. *Warbirds* - Atari
6. *Super Mario Bros. 3* - Nintendo
7. *Tetris* - Spectrum Holobyte/Nintendo
8. *NBA All-Star Challenge* - LJN Toys
9. *Bill Ellicit's NASCAR Challenge* - Konami
10. *Tecmo Bowl* - Tecmo

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